

1. (Amended) A method for management of a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the method comprising:

configuring a first set of distributed discovery processes in accordance with a first set of configuration parameters;

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initiating the first set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system;

analyzing status information that is generated by the first set of distributed discovery processes;

modifying a second set of configuration parameters in response to the analyzed status information; and

initiating a second set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system in accordance with the modified second set of configuration parameters.

3. (Amended) An apparatus for management of a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the apparatus comprising:

means for configuring a first set of distributed discovery processes in accordance with a first set of configuration parameters;

means for initiating the first set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system;

means for analyzing status information that is generated by the first set of distributed discovery processes;

means for modifying a second set of configuration parameters in response to the analyzed status information; and

means for initiating a second set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system in accordance with the modified second set of configuration parameters.

5. (Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for configuring a first set of distributed discovery processes in accordance with a first set of configuration parameters;

A3       instructions for initiating the first set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system;

instructions for analyzing status information that is generated by the first set of distributed discovery processes;

instructions for modifying a second set of configuration parameters in response to the analyzed status information; and

instructions for initiating a second set of distributed discovery processes for discovering physical resources within the distributed data processing system in accordance with the modified second set of configuration parameters.

7. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
representing discovered physical resources within a set of  
scopes, wherein a scope comprises a logical organization of  
networks; and

associating each scope with a management customer.

8. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the first set of  
distributed discovery processes is initiated by a service  
provider that manages networks on behalf of the plurality of  
management customers.

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9. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein the second set of  
distributed discovery processes is initiated by a management  
customer.

10. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein each discovery  
process uniquely executes in conjunction with an Object Request  
Broker (ORB).

11. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
configuring a set of customer-specified configuration  
parameters; and  
executing the second set of distributed discovery processes  
in accordance with the set of customer-specified configuration  
parameters.

12. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
modifying the set of customer-specified configuration  
parameters; and  
in response to modifying the set of customer-specified  
configuration parameters, modifying the second set of  
configuration parameters.

13. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
generating the second set of configuration parameters for  
use in initializing networks of a first management customer; and  
copying the second set of configuration parameters for use  
in initializing networks of a second management customer.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:  
means for representing discovered physical resources within  
a set of scopes, wherein a scope comprises a logical  
organization of networks; and  
means for associating each scope with a management customer.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the first set of  
distributed discovery processes is initiated by a service  
provider that manages networks on behalf of the plurality of  
management customers.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the second set  
of distributed discovery processes is initiated by a management  
customer.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein each discovery  
process uniquely executes in conjunction with an Object Request  
Broker (ORB).

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:  
means for configuring a set of customer-specified  
configuration parameters; and  
means for executing the second set of distributed discovery  
processes in accordance with the set of customer-specified  
configuration parameters.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:  
means for modifying the set of customer-specified  
configuration parameters; and

means for modifying the second set of configuration  
parameters in response to modifying the set of  
customer-specified configuration parameters.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

means for generating the second set of configuration  
parameters for use in initializing networks of a first  
management customer; and

means for copying the second set of configuration parameters  
for use in initializing networks of a second management  
customer.

21. (New) The computer program product of claim 5 further  
comprising:

instructions for representing discovered physical resources  
within a set of scopes, wherein a scope comprises a logical  
organization of networks; and

instructions for associating each scope with a management  
customer.

22. (New) The computer program product of claim 5 wherein  
the first set of distributed discovery processes is initiated by  
a service provider that manages networks on behalf of the  
plurality of management customers.

23. (New) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein  
the second set of distributed discovery processes is initiated  
by a management customer.